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L2: Entry 7 of 10 File: USPT Nov 9, 1999

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5980096 A
TITLE: Computer-based system, methods and graphical interface for information storage, modeling and stimulation of complex systems

Detailed Description Text (41):
1. The computer-aided systems, methods, and interfaces that are the object of this invention can be applied to graphically model and quantitatively simulate any type of complex system involving any type of processes and their participants. The library of palettes of prebuilt building blocks is provided which together with the basic paradigm of "Clone, Connect and Configure" and other automated methods to facilitate the tasks of the modeler. A library of prebuilt query and simulation panels facilitate the tasks of the users to rapidly extract and dynamically use the knowledge and data contained in each specific application. The description that follows is based on one particular domain, that of chemistry, to illustrate one of the implementations of such computer-aided systems, methods, and interfaces. However, such computer-aided systems, methods, and interfaces can be implemented in a similar manner for domains other that of chemistry. For example, in a business domain, what in this description is called bioEntities can be substituted with different types of entities, such as employees or projects, and bioProcesses can be substituted with the different activities in which both interact, the bioReactants with the roles they play in such activities, that frequently may involve other participants. Employees are like enzymes, with the more capable having higher rate-constants. Projects are like the substrates, and employees may have higher affinities for some projects, with a likelihood that they will interact in a process in which a quantifiable measure of the outcome, such as quantity or level of quality, will depend on quantifiable measure of the employee, lets say amount of time put on that project and level of specific experience. The bioPool of each employee could be his/her time, and the max-amount could be set to a day, a month, a year, or any other amount. The bioPool of each employee could be his/her time, and the max-amount could be set to a day, a month, a year, or any other amount. The Contribution to each project would be the amount of time invested in that role, while the different activities will compete for the time left available.

CLAIMS:

8. A computer system as claimed in claim 7, wherein:

said types of quantitative variables comprise one or more different types of state variables associated with each of said reservoir building-blocks representing current quantitative measure(s) of the units in the population each instance represents, including one or more of concentration, density, quantity, scaled-quantity, or any other measure; and

said stored means comprise simulation means associated with said variables to dynamically compute their value, wherein the values for any instance of said state variables associated with any instance of said reservoir building-blocks is computed by integrating the sum of the rate(s) of input from the output(s) of any number of instances of process building-blocks linked as inputs to said reservoir building-block less the sum of the rate(s) of output to the input(s) of any number of instances of process building-blocks linked as outputs of said reservoir

building-block, plus or minus any other optional mathematically modeled inputs or outputs.

20. A computer system as claimed in claim 19, wherein:

said types of quantitative variables comprise one or more different types of state variables associated with each of said reservoir building-blocks representing current quantitative measures of the units in the population each instance represents, including one or more of concentration, density, quantity, scaled-quantity, or any other measure; and

said stored means comprise simulation means associated with said variables to dynamically compute their value, wherein the values for any instance of said state variables associated with any instance of said reservoir building-blocks is computed by integrating the sum of the rate(s) of input from any number of instances of process building-blocks linked as inputs to said reservoir building-block less the sum of the rate(s) of output to any number of instances of process building-blocks linked as outputs of said reservoir building-block, plus or minus any other optional mathematically modeled inputs or outputs.

35. A computer system as claimed in claim 33, wherein said types of quantitative variables comprise one or more different types of state variables associated with each of said reservoir building-blocks representing current quantitative measure(s) of the units in the population it represents, including one or more of concentration, density, quantity, scaled-quantity, or any other measure, with associated simulation means to dynamically integrate the sum of the rate(s) of input from any number of instances of product building-blocks linked to inputs to said reservoir building-block less the sum of the rate(s) of output to any number of instances of reactant building-blocks linked to outputs of said reservoir building-block, plus or minus any other optional mathematically modeled inputs or outputs.

46. A method as claimed in claim 45, wherein:

said defined types of quantitative variables comprise one or more different types of state variables associated with each of said prototypes of reservoir building-blocks, representing current quantitative measures of the units in the population it represents, including one or more of concentration, density, quantity, scaled-quantity, or any other measure; and

said modeling means relate the value of instance(s) of said different types of state variable(s) of an instance of reservoir building-block to the values of variable(s) of linked complementary instances of process building-blocks by integrating the sum of the current value(s) of the rate(s) of input from any number of said instances of process building-blocks linked as inputs to said instance of reservoir building-block less the sum of the rate(s) of output to any number of said instances of process building-blocks linked as outputs of said instance, plus or minus any other optional mathematically modeled inputs or outputs of said instance.

56. A method as claimed in claim 55, wherein:

said quantitative variables associated with said instances of reservoir building-blocks comprise

one or more different types of state variables representing current quantitative measures of the units in the population it represents, including one or more of concentration, density, quantity, scaled-quantity, or any other measure; and

said associated simulation means dynamically compute the values for any instance of

said state variables associated with any instance of said reservoir building-blocks by integrating the sum of the rate(s) of input from any number of process building-blocks linked as inputs to said reservoir building-block less the sum of the rate (s) of out to any number of process building-blocks linked as outputs of said reservoir building-block, plus or minus any other optional mathematically modeled inputs or outputs.

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